

GRAND JURY PROBE OF PITTSBURGH LIFE

New Warrant for Birdseye, Chief Promoter of Alleged Fraud

O'NEIL NAMED RECEIVER

Insurance Commissioner Put in Charge of Insurance Company's Business

The Grand Jury in Pittsburgh, Pa., this afternoon is hearing details of the conspiracy through which the Pittsburgh Life and Trust Company, of Pittsburgh, Pa., was looted of more than \$2,000,000.

The appointment was made by the Federal court in Pittsburgh. No deposition order was made by the court, it being understood that O'Neil and his assistants will take charge of the affairs of the company.

Insurance men, men connected with reputable companies, say that again the lax insurance laws of Pennsylvania, which have received no attention in the present Legislature, are directly responsible for the looting of more than \$2,000,000 out of the insurance company.

The assets of the Pittsburgh Life and Trust Company, which is offered by some of Pittsburgh's best-known financiers, closely follows the scandal of the Pension Mutual Life Insurance Company, also of Pittsburgh, and the Union Casualty Insurance Company, of Philadelphia, both of which companies were exposed several months ago by the Evening Ledger.

Months ago when this newspaper brought to light the methods used by the Pension Mutual Company, representatives of the insurance industry, and other companies urged the State Insurance Department to have laws enacted similar to those of the State of New York.

Both the Pension and Union Casualty companies were run through the manipulations and mutual juggling of the policy holders' funds. When the disclosures of the "inner workings" of those two companies were made, the insurance industry in New York following the Hughes investigation of insurance companies many years ago.

The State Insurance Department says alleged dummy directors of the Pittsburgh Life and Trust Company did what they pleased with the securities and bonds owned by that company. The chief feature of their operations was the purchase of securities and exchange them for other bonds of the same value and later sold them to their own company for larger amounts.

Seven warrants have been issued for arrest of the dummy directors, all of whom have fled from Philadelphia and are now hiding in different parts of Greater New York.

The present scandal is described by the State Insurance Department as one of the most gigantic insurance swindles that has ever taken place in this State. It was to prevent similar scandals, the kind that brought the exposure of the Pension Mutual Company, that the Evening Ledger called upon the State Insurance Department and members of the present Legislature to enact more stringent insurance laws.

First of all, under adequate laws, it would have been necessary for the Pittsburgh Life and Trust Company to present their proposition to the State Insurance Department before any of the bonds or securities could have been turned over to the directors.

State Insurance Commissioner O'Neil has announced that a bill will be introduced in the present Legislature making it compulsory for any company in the insurance business to conduct its affairs in Pennsylvania before it can receive any of its bonds to its directors. This bill is scheduled to be introduced in the Legislature on Monday.

Attorney General Francis Shunk Brown and his assistant, Deputy Attorney General Kun, are in Pittsburgh today looking into the affairs of the Pittsburgh Life and Trust Company. It is understood that \$2,000,000 will be necessary to reimburse the company.

ELKTON MARRIAGE LICENSES

Philadelphia Constitutes Large Proportion of Today's Applicants

ELKTON, Md., May 7.—The following marriage licenses were issued here today: Abner B. Daily and Maria E. Lorimer, Thomas M. Eastwood and Hilda E. Stoney, John Schug and Mae Whitout, Wilson S. Howell and Anna Keuler, George Goodale and Edna Tazer, John J. Votts and Louise Conlan, Leonard Palf and Jennie Zierman, William P. Brown and Anita M. Walsh, Frank E. Mackey and Florence A. Markley, Frederick T. Stenzel and Rose Greenberg, Anna I. Feldonberger, Reading; George Faulkner and Mabel Burke, Northampton; J. J. Edwards and Catherine E. Roland, Reading; Charles Dams and Marian Danner, Collingswood, N. J.; William B. Groff and Helen S. Bevington, Garden, N. J.; Charles Carr and Stella Krush, Trenton; Benjamin R. Craig and Leona E. Unsworth, Atlantic City; John C. Delaney and Hannah McKone, Chester; and Levin P. Taylor, Chestertown, Md., and Catherine M. Whipple, Bridgeport, Conn.

TODAY'S MARRIAGE LICENSES

Charles H. Therman, 705 E. 16th st., and Jessie Jones, 2100 E. 16th st.; Charles H. Therman, 705 E. 16th st., and Leonora Fisher, 2602 Orleans st.; 1919 Allen st., and Carrie Skinner, 1915 Mountain st.; Frederick G. Burns, 4110 N. 3d st., and Mary C. McKale, 5142 Newhall st.; and Clementine G. Smith, 2014 Arizona st., and Frank Engelhardt, 440 1/2 st., and Cordelia Parker, 608 N. 4th st.; Brockie Woodford, 292 N. Clarion st., and Ida Huey, 682 N. 14th st.; Peter Ward, 1814 N. Taylor st., and Annie Haley, 1808 N. 14th st.; Samuel Lerner, 1039 Snyder ave., and Anna Bernatovich, 1224 Franklin ave.; Emil Goodman, 1143 Germantown ave., and Elizabeth E. Lippman, 1143 Germantown ave.; Matt Plank, 4018 N. Marshall st., and Ella L. Alaker, 17th st., and Peterburg, Pa.; and Albert Clark, Berlin.

CAMDEN

ORDINATION of Robert G. W. Williams, for many years lay reader in charge of St. Andrew's Mission, North Chestnut street, to the position of deacon took place this morning at St. Paul's Protestant Episcopal Church, Market street above Fourth. The Right Rev. Paul Matthews, Bishop, and the Most Rev. George W. H. Williams, the senior cleric, have been named reader of St. Wilfrid's Church, East Camden.

DOMINICAN SISTERS of the Perpetual Blessity held their annual May Sunday service in honor of the Virgin Mary yesterday at their convent, Haddon avenue, Parkside. The Rev. Brendan C. Shea,

WHITES IN CUBA FEAR MASSACRE

Refugees in New York Report Burning and Pillaging by Rebels

URGE U. S. INTERVENTION

NEW YORK, May 7. Charges that Cuban negro rebels are burning and pillaging the homes and properties of American and other foreigners in the districts of Pinar del Rio, Bayate and Miranda, Oriente province, were made by twenty-four American and British refugees who arrived here today.

Some of the largest coal dealers in the city, including Frank J. Mathers and the George B. Newton Company, disagree with Mr. Kane. Mr. Mathers said today that as long as his yard supply lasted there would be no increase in the price per ton.

Three of the largest operators that sell to dealers in this city have made an increase of thirty cents per ton, and there are indications that many of the retailers will make a proportionate advance in the near future.

The Susquehanna Coal Company today announced its quotations for prepared sizes of anthracite coal for the month of May, which are the same as net prices quoted by Reading and Lehigh Coal and Navigation, except on sea coal.

For sea coal the Susquehanna Company quotes \$2.90 for the L. C. and the L. C. and N. Y. \$2.19.

The present increase may be the opportunity for the government to step in," said Mr. Kane, "or if not the Federal Government, perhaps the state might take advantage of the situation. Of course I am speaking generally, providing there is something which can be shown that is contrary to law. So far as the Department of Justice is concerned, I may say we are keeping our eyes open."

The operators have announced a general advance. From Wilkes-Barre, Hazleton, Scranton and other points, the advance increases from forty to seventy-five cents a ton. Recently the carriers, consignees and operators were asked by the Government to furnish the large numbers of horses now in use in city work to be asked to rearrange their schedules so that the animals may be hired out for periods of from one day to several weeks, at a fair rate to be decided upon.

While it is admitted to be true the consumption has greatly increased because of the proportionate increase in the volume of business, it is pointed out that the shortage of coal is said to be something the Government has instructed its attorneys to investigate. Yesterday information came from Washington with it instructing that which sent the lips of the Federal officials in this city, but with the Trade Commission active, it is understood the investigation will call for the most necessary, or at least the methods involved will be entirely different from any heretofore employed.

Ward W. Pierson yesterday declared he had received complaints from several retailers who informed him they had been unable to receive coal. "There is something radically wrong," he said, "for we have the independent operators, three, weekly ago, were never heavier. Instead of increasing the price to consumers, the retailers should, in all fairness, cut their figures to conform to the price fixed by the independent operators. There is no doubt, at least the methods involved will be entirely different from any heretofore employed."

In the Scranton district, neither the Lackawanna, Erie or the Delaware and Hudson have issued a new price list. The People's Coal Company, one of the largest independent operators, three, weekly ago, however, advanced the price on all sizes fifty cents a ton. At Hazleton the G. B. Markle collieries made the largest jump, increasing the cost of pea coal from \$2.75 to \$5 a ton, while stove and chestnut were both advanced forty cents. The Lehigh Valley Coal Company and the smaller collieries have raised prices on all domestic sizes twenty-five cents. In the Wilkes-Barre district prices advanced so the consumer has been compelled to pay fifteen cents a ton more for coal than he did a year ago.

According to the report of the Trade Commission, the wage increase granted the miners should not cost the operators more than from twenty to thirty cents per ton in production charges. As the advance announced by them already is forty cents a ton, their additional profit, if the year's production of anthracite only equals that of 1916, will be \$5.75 to \$6.

The following organizations are represented in the joint committee: Philadelphia Board, Philadelphia Maritime Exchange, Philadelphia Commercial Museum, Mercantile Association, Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce, Philadelphia Textile Association, Cotton Yarn Merchants' Association, Paper Trade Association, Philadelphia Board of Trade, Grocers' and Importers' Exchange, Master Builders' Exchange, Vessel Owners' and Captains' Association, Delaware River Transportation Association, Wholesale Dry Goods, Softlines and Millinery Association, Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce, Philadelphia Drug Exchange, Lumbermen's Exchange, Philadelphia Wholesale Lumber Dealers' Association, Philadelphia Foundrymen's Association, Paint Manufacturers' Club of Philadelphia, United Business Men's Association, Commercial Exchange of Philadelphia, Philadelphia Club, Philadelphia Produce Exchange, Philadelphia Stationers' Association, Paper Box Manufacturers' Association, Philadelphia Lager Beer Brewers' Association.

The proposed act merely enables the city to provide for a better line. After it is passed it will be necessary for the city to work out the most advantageous plan, which may provide either for a belt line owned by the city or for one controlled by the city. If the line owned by the city were formed from the existing line and additional ones which would be built, it is suggested that it would more than likely not be necessary to appropriate additional funds. Several members of the committee believe that sufficient money to take care of the line could be diverted from appropriations already made for dock and wharf purposes. At this afternoon's meeting the question of charging for shipping over the belt line was discussed briefly. It was indicated that the charges for shipping probably would not exceed \$2 per car and that it might come below that figure.

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COAL PRICES SOAR; NO RELIEF VISIBLE

A Few Dealers Will Sell Present Stock at Old Price

U. S. ATTORNEY'S OPINION

United States Attorney Francis Fisher Kane said today that the consumer will continue to pay the added costs demanded as the result of the coal strike.

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While it is admitted to be true the consumption has greatly increased because of the proportionate increase in the volume of business, it is pointed out that the shortage of coal is said to be something the Government has instructed its attorneys to investigate. Yesterday information came from Washington with it instructing that which sent the lips of the Federal officials in this city, but with the Trade Commission active, it is understood the investigation will call for the most necessary, or at least the methods involved will be entirely different from any heretofore employed.

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TO FORM BOARDS OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Central Committee Calls for Organization Throughout State

SITES FOR HOSPITALS

The State Public Safety Committee today has a safe committee throughout the State in conformity with the system of organization of the central committee, which has headquarters in the Finance Building.

The war-time food problem is to be taken up with renewed activity, sites for military hospitals throughout the State are to be prepared for Government use, and a company of engineers is to be recruited.

The Pennsylvania Railroad began today its program of patriotic publicity by distributing copies of President Wilson's proclamation in booklet form to more than 250,000 railroad men. It is expected that the action of the Pennsylvania Railroad will be followed by other railroads throughout the country, and by other organizations.

The sanitation, medicine and Red Cross departments of the organization of public safety has made a careful survey of the State for possible sites for about twenty hospitals and hospital camps. The survey was made by the Pennsylvania State Commission on the Health, at the request of the department.

Two Philadelphia sites are recommended. One is a 60-acre plot adjoining the filtration plant at Torresdale. The other is the Roberts Farm tract, consisting of about 800 acres. Both sites are owned by the city and are under the control of the Department of Public Health and Charities.

More than 5000 farmers in this county have been selected for mobilization of horses for spring plowing. The mobilization of horses for spring plowing will be completed by the end of the month. The horses are now in use in city work and will be asked to rearrange their schedules so that the animals may be hired out for periods of from one day to several weeks, at a fair rate to be decided upon.

While it is admitted to be true the consumption has greatly increased because of the proportionate increase in the volume of business, it is pointed out that the shortage of coal is said to be something the Government has instructed its attorneys to investigate. Yesterday information came from Washington with it instructing that which sent the lips of the Federal officials in this city, but with the Trade Commission active, it is understood the investigation will call for the most necessary, or at least the methods involved will be entirely different from any heretofore employed.

Ward W. Pierson yesterday declared he had received complaints from several retailers who informed him they had been unable to receive coal. "There is something radically wrong," he said, "for we have the independent operators, three, weekly ago, were never heavier. Instead of increasing the price to consumers, the retailers should, in all fairness, cut their figures to conform to the price fixed by the independent operators. There is no doubt, at least the methods involved will be entirely different from any heretofore employed."

In the Scranton district, neither the Lackawanna, Erie or the Delaware and Hudson have issued a new price list. The People's Coal Company, one of the largest independent operators, three, weekly ago, however, advanced the price on all sizes fifty cents a ton. At Hazleton the G. B. Markle collieries made the largest jump, increasing the cost of pea coal from \$2.75 to \$5 a ton, while stove and chestnut were both advanced forty cents. The Lehigh Valley Coal Company and the smaller collieries have raised prices on all domestic sizes twenty-five cents. In the Wilkes-Barre district prices advanced so the consumer has been compelled to pay fifteen cents a ton more for coal than he did a year ago.

According to the report of the Trade Commission, the wage increase granted the miners should not cost the operators more than from twenty to thirty cents per ton in production charges. As the advance announced by them already is forty cents a ton, their additional profit, if the year's production of anthracite only equals that of 1916, will be \$5.75 to \$6.

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